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Message Text

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12
ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AEC-11 AF-10 ARA-16 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EUR-25 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NASA-04 NEA-14

NSAE-00 NSC-07 OIC-04 SP-03 PA-04 PRS-01 RSC-01

SCI-06 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /212 W
---------- 033013
R 230736Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3955
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5564

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, AS
SUBJ: NPT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING, AUGUST 26 - SEPTEMBER 6

REF: STATE 181993

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED REFTEL WITH MISS I. SVENNE, DISARMAMENT SECTION, DEFENSE DIV, DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON AUG 23, 1974. MISS SVENNE INDICATED INTEREST IN FACT THAT ACDA DEPUTY DIRECTOR ZURHELLEN WAS ALREADY IN GENEVA AND WOULD WELCOME CONSULTATIONS ON SUBJECT MEETING FROM INTERESTED DELEGATIONS. SHE ASSUMED THAT AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR CORKERY WAS ALREADY IN CONTACT WITH ZURHELLEN AND NOTED THAT DR. WILSON, AUSTRALIAN EXPERT ON PNE'S WAS EXPECTED IN GENEVA MOMENTARILY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE MISS SVENNE'S REACTION TO US POSITIONS KEYED TO PARAS OF REFTEL:

PARAS 2 AND 3: WHILE APPRECIATING USG'S CONCERN NOT TO OPEN UP DISCUSSION ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, IT IS DFA'S VIEW THAT SUBSTANTIVE
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MATTERS WILL BE RAISED, ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY RESOLVED AT

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FORTHCOMING MEETING. DFA SEES SOME BENEFIT TO HAVING SUCH MATTERS RAISED AT THIS TIME IN SENSE OF "CLEARING THE AIR" FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTION OF THEM IN FEB, 1975 MEETING OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE.

PARAS 4 AND 5: DFA AGREES THAT AS MUCH PROGRESS AS POSSIBLE SHOULD BE MADE ON PROCEDURAL MATTERS IN FORTHCOMING MEETING, ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME DOUBT THAT ALL OF THEM CAN BE HANDLED SUCCESSFULLY AT THIS TIME. MISS SVENNE STATED THAT AUSTRALIA ALSO WISHES PRINCIPLE OF CONSENSUS TO BE USED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND THAT THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH PARA 5 OF THE ANNEX TO THE COMMITTEE'S RULES OF PROCEDURE.

PARA 6: WHEN ASKED WHAT PROSPECTS WERE FOR AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO ENCOURAGE HIGHER LEVEL PARTICIPATION BY SEVERAL COUNTRIES LITED IN THIS PARAGRAPH IN WORK OF COMMITTEE, SVENNE NOTED SHE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED MORE ACTIVE INTEREST ON PART OF SOME COUNTRIES AS A RESULT OF INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. SUCH INTEREST HOWEVER SHE SAID DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN GENERATED AMONG THESE COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT: MISS SVENNE AGAIN EVIDENCED STRONG CONCERN OF GOA IN INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. SHE FOLLOWED THIS BY SUGGESTING THAT AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES BE OPENED UP. SHE SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO PROPOSAL THAT PNE'S BE ALLOWED UNDER INTERNATIONAL AUSPICES, PRESUMABLY THE IAEA, WHICH SHE INDICATED WAS BEING PURSUED BY THE US DELEGATION. SHE REITERATED THAT COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA SHOULD HAVE AN OPTION IN DEVELOPING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY APART FROM THEIR OBVIOUS ABILITY TO EXPLODE A NUCLEAR DEVICE.

4. MISS SVENNE INDICATED THAT THE FOREGOING COMMENTS WERE "DEPARTMENTAL" AT THIS STAGE AND DID NOT HAVE MINISTERIAL APPROVAL. SHE INDICATED HOWEVER THAT SHE DID NOT EXPECT ANY GREAT CHANGE IN THE POSITIONS IMPLIED ABOVE ON THE PART OF THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION.

5. MISS SVENNE EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND AUSTRALIAN DELEGATIONS WOULD BE ADVANCED IF CONFIDENTIAL

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AUSTRALIAN SIDE COULD BE INVOLVED IN US CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE THEY HAD BECOME FIRM US POSITIONS.
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